

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 02619 160715Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1815

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2619

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, RP  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO OAKLEY STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
PHILIPPINES

REF: USIS WIRELESS FILE EPF-40 (2/15/78)

1. ADVANCE TEXT OF OAKLEY'S STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
PHILIPPINES, QUOTED IN WIRELESS FILE FEBRUARY 15, CONTAINS  
SOME FACTUAL ERRORS WHICH WE BELIEVE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SEEK  
TO CORRECT BEFORE RELEASE. MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IS FACT  
THAT THE 22 EXISTING MILITARY TRIBUNALS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT  
BE REPLACED BY "NEW CIVILIAN TRIBUNALS." INSTEAD, THE 22  
EXISTING PART-TIME MILITARY TRIBUNALS ARE BEING REPLACED BY  
TEN FULL-TIME MILITARY TRIBUNALS. ALSO: (A) THE 790 CASES  
BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS ARE DIVIDED INTO 485 CASES PRESENTLY  
BEFORE THE 22 EXISTING TRIBUNALS, AND 305 ARE ALREADY  
ASSIGNED TO THE NEW TRIBUNALS ESTABLISHED JANUARY 17;  
(B) SECDEF ENRILE RODERED SIX ARMY ENLISTED MEN DISMISSED  
AND CHARGED WITH MURDER FOR THE TORTURE AND DEATH OF ONE  
REPEAT ONE PHILIPPINE CITIZEN IN OCTOBER; (C) THE OCTOBER 5,  
1977, PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF 15 PRIESTS AND  
NUNS RELATED ONLY TO "SIGN OF THE TIMES." FOURTEEN  
ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WERE INVESTIGATED LATER REGARDING  
"THE COMMUNICATOR."

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2. FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED CHANGES IN TEXT OF OAKELY'S  
STATEMENT TO CORRECT THESE FACTUAL ERRORS:

A) QUOTE FAITHFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF PRESIDENT MARCOS'  
RECENT ORDER THAT 485 CASES PRESENTLY BEFORE EXISTING  
MILITARY TRIBUNALS BE EXPEDITED AND, IF POSSIBLE, CONCLUDED

WITHIN 90 DAYS, WOULD BE A STEP FORWARD TO RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM. UNQUOTE. DELETE SUBSEQUENT SENTENCE QUOTE WE WOULD HOPE...OF DUE PROCESS. UNQUOTE.

B) QUOTE ON FEBRUARY 7, THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, JUAN PONCE ENRILE, ORDERED SIX ARMY ENLISTED MEN DISMISSED FROM THE SERVICE AND CHARGED WITH MURDER FOR THE TORTURE AND DEATH OF A PHILIPPINE CITIZEN IN OCTOBER. UNQUOTE.

C) QUOTE ON OCTOBER 5, 1977, A MILITARY TRIBUNAL BEGAN A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF 15 PRIESTS AND NUNS, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS, FOR THEIR ROLE IN PRINTING AND CIRCULATING ALLEGEDLY SUBVERSIVE MATERIALS IN THE "SIGNS OF THE TIMES." ON OCTOBER 7, 1977, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRIBUNAL SAID 14 ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE CLERGY AND CHURCH EMPLOYEES WOULD BE INVESTIGATED FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN PRINTING SUBVERSIVE MATERIAL IN "THE COMMUNICATOR." THESE CHURCH PUBLICATIONS HAVE REMAINED SHUT DOWN SINCE THEIR CLOSURE BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 1976. UNQUOTE.

D) QUOTE -- ORDERS TO LIMIT THE USE OF MILITARY TRIBUNALS FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES, ACTIONS TAKEN TO SPEED UP THE TRIALS OF SOME 485 CASES PENDING BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNALS, AND THE CREATION OF TEN FULL-TIME MILITARY TRIBUNALS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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REPLACE THE PRESENT 22 PART-TIME TRIBUNALS; UNQUOTE

E) QUOTE -- THE REPORTED RELEASE OF MORE THAN 3,000 DETAINEES OF VARIOUS SORTS SINCE JUNE 1, 1977; UNQUOTE.

3. WITH REFERENCE TO COMMENT ABOUT FREELY OBSERVED ELECTIONS, OAKLEY STATEMENT MIGHT NOTE THAT RESPONSIBEL GOP OFFICIALS HAVE ASSURED US THAT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WILL BE WELCOME AND FREE TO MOVE WHEREVER THEY WISH IN COVERING CAMPAIGN AND ELECTIONS (PER INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD'S COMMENT TO AMBASSADOR, BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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